Hearing can change over time

Your baby should have a hearing test if any of the following apply to him/her:

- You or another caregiver has concerns
- Infection before/at birth (Example: toxoplasmosis, cytomegalovirus, german measles)
- Infection after birth (Example: meningitis)
- Low birth weight
- Jaundice requiring blood transfusion
- Birth defect of the head or neck (Example: cleft palate)
- Some disorders that affect the baby's nervous system
- Head injury
- Medicine that can damage the ear (Example: gentamicin)
- Prolonged neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) stay
- Family history of childhood hearing loss

If you have any concerns or questions regarding your child's hearing, please discuss it with your child's doctor.

For more information call

Newborn Hearing Screening Program (NHSP)
808-594-0043

Hawaii Keiki Information Services System (H-KISS)
Early Intervention information and referral line

H-KISS Oahu
594-0066
(Voice & TDD)
or
Neighbor Islands call toll-free:
1-800-235-5477
(Voice & TDD)

Neil Abercrombie, Governor of Hawaii
Linda Rosen, M.D., M.P.H., Director of Health

The Hawaii Department of Health provides access to activities without regard to race, color, national origin (including language), age, sex, religion, or disability. Write or call our Affirmative Action Officer at Box 3378, Honolulu, HI 96801-3378 at (808) 586-4616 (voice/tty) within 180 days of a problem.

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Rev. 2/13 (Language: English)

CAN YOUR BABY HEAR?

A HEARING TEST CAN BE DONE AT ANY AGE

NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING PROGRAM

Genomics Section
Children with Special Health Needs Branch
Hawaii Department of Health

Ages and Stages

At these ages, your child should:

Birth to 3 months
- ☐ Startle to loud sounds (about 6 feet away)
- ☐ Make pleasure sounds
- ☐ Feel comforted by familiar voices

3 to 6 months
- ☐ Show interest in sounds
- ☐ Make several sounds (ooh, ba-ba, ma-ma)
- ☐ Respond to his/her name with a smile

6 to 9 months
- ☐ Listen to music or singing
- ☐ Imitate speech and non speech
- ☐ Understand “no” and “bye-bye”

9 to 12 months
- ☐ Turn head to locate sound
- ☐ Produce these sounds in babbling: b,m,p,d,t,n,g,k,w,f,v,th,s,z,l
- ☐ Say “mama” or “dada” with meaning

12 to 18 months
- ☐ Point to body parts, people, and toys
- ☐ Use jargon (sounds like sentences, but few understandable words)
- ☐ Understand 50-75 words

18 to 24 months
- ☐ Understand about 300 words
- ☐ Use about 50 recognizable words
- ☐ Follow simple commands

24 to 36 months
- ☐ Learn new words everyday
- ☐ Make about half of speech sounds correctly
- ☐ Ask questions and answer “Why?” and “What?” questions

The critical time for learning speech and language is the **first 3 years of life**.

Babies need good hearing to learn language during this time.

Activities for Parents

Talk to your baby from birth. Talk about what you are doing and what he/she is doing. Speak in short simple sentences at a regular volume. Don’t “baby-talk”.

Read to your child using bright colorful picture books. Involve your child in reading the story.

Sing to your child.

Imitate your child’s sounds. Children love hearing you repeat after them. Focus on vowel sounds while using one or two words at a time.

Make speaking and listening fun! Play with your child. Use “peek-a-boo”, “pattycake” and fingerplays.

Follow what interests your child. Talk about what your child is looking at and doing. Let your child lead during play time.

Limit background noise when you talk to your child. Turn off noisy appliances, turn down the volume of radio or TV.

Praise your child’s communication attempts! Applaud when your child listens and responds to sound.